



Left: PSO briefing room shortly after the terrorist attacks of September 11.

Heightened Security Since 9/11

The morning of September 11th had begun like most for members of the Protective Force Division. However, that changed quickly. Like everyone else, PFD Sergeants and Officers were in disbelief of what had just been seen on the morning news.

Within minutes a flurry of phone calls and pages came in from Senior Lab management to members of the PFD. The Emergency Operations Centers and PFD's Tactical Operation Center were quickly activated. Emergency call-outs for personnel support and real-time assessments of what had happened and how it would affect the Laboratory were part of the response. Questions were being asked: "What has happened?" "What are you doing?" "Is there formal direction?" Within moments the level of Security Condition (SECON) was raised. SECON Levels are based on current state of affairs; we rose to SECON 2 and then settled at SECON 3.

To support this increased SECON level, Protective Force Division personnel were assigned to 12-hour shifts or required to support the Emergency Management Center as an added work assignment. Like most service organizations, the Protective Force Division is a 24-7 operation with required staffing positions. Working holidays, weekends and through the night, and sometimes missing birthdays and anniversaries, PSOs' schedules were driven by working many extra hours.

This dedicated sacrifice to accomplish the task of providing a secure environment and protect national assets mostly goes unnoticed, but it is there. These matters are just part of the job and everyday life in security. Most of the post-9/11 security actions put in place at LLNL cannot be discussed. But, suffice to say, due to the constant effort of excellence offered by members of the PFD, the level of security was set at a high level as a deterrence to any adversary threat.

These words generously supplied by Russ Markishtum.

Right: A PSO checks a driver's badge just after daybreak.





Over the years, the Protective Force Division has been of service to both the Laboratory and the community.

